

# INFORMATION LETTER

Not for  
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members  
Only

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## **Canned and Other Well-Packaged Foods Only Foods Safe to Eat after Atomic Bomb Explosion, General Says**

Canned foods are not affected by the radio-activity generated by atomic bomb explosions, and, if they survive the bomb explosion and fire that follows, they and other well-packaged foods would be the only safe foods to eat, it was stated this week by Brig. Gen. James P. Cooney, chief of the Radiology Branch, Atomic Energy Commission.

General Cooney cautioned, however, that the outside of each can or other food package should be carefully washed off before it is opened so as to remove any radioactive dust that may have lodged there.

General Cooney's statements were delivered extemporaneously October 17 before delegates attending the 33rd annual convention of the American Dietetic Association in Washington. Some 3,000-odd delegates attended the ADA sessions. Members of the N.C.A. Home Economics Division carried out official duties in connection with the meetings.

The fact of canned foods safety under atomic bomb attack conditions was widely reported in newspapers, magazines and wire services. It is expected to receive further circulation in the published account of the proceed-

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## **Fish Production Authority Delegated to Interior Dept.**

The Secretary of Agriculture on October 16 delegated to the Secretary of the Interior certain authority under the Defense Production Act relating to the production of fishery commodities and products. Basic responsibilities for food were delegated to the Department of Agriculture by the President's Executive Order 10161 (see INFORMATION LETTER of September 16, page 275, and of September 23, page 281).

Certain priority, allocation, claimant, requisitioning and other functions as related to fish production are delegated under the order. In general, the delegation enables the Secretary of Interior to encourage production of fishery commodities to fulfill require-

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### **Convention Room Requirements**

Convention room request forms are being received at Association headquarters. It is urged that all members return their request forms as soon as possible so as to permit an early calculation of over-all room requirements.

## **Home Economics Division Is Host on 'Career Day'**

On visits to seven types of business organizations, including the National Canners Association, outstanding high school students and their vocational guidance counselors learned first-hand about careers in home economics during Home Economics Career Day, October 13, in the District of Columbia.

The day was staged as part of a national project initiated because the demand for home economists exceeds the supply of degree-holding women in the profession.

In Washington, the day was sponsored by the District Home Economists in Business, and was planned to allow for an explanation of each department visited and a tour of kitchens and other facilities. Starting with radio station WTOP, where several girls were interviewed, the group moved on to visit the home service departments of the electric and gas companies, a department store's interior decorating studios and food service, the telephone company food service, a hotel training school, and the National Canners Association. Fifteen high schools in the Washington area participated, with 55 students and counselors attending.

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## **Brannan Sees No Early Need For 'System of Food Controls'**

Secretary Brannan said this week that there is no immediate need for "drastic food controls."

He also stated that an early institution of price controls on food would result in higher prices rather than lower prices.

The Secretary's remarks were contained in an address before the National Association of Food Chains, in convention in Cincinnati October 17. His was the first official declaration with regard to food controls authorized under the Defense Production Act.

On the same day, in addressing the Milk Industry Foundation in Atlantic City, Ralph S. Trigg, PMA administrator who is in charge of USDA's food control functions under the defense law, declared that there is no need now for control of prices or domestic distribution of agricultural commodities.

Salient portions of Secretary Brannan's address are quoted:

"Production is the first line of defense, price controls the second.

"The nation's superb food production rules out any need at this time for a system of food controls.

"In sizing up the future, we must deal first with foreseeable trends. These contain no omen which spells out right now the necessity for drastic food controls for as far as we can look ahead with certainty. In this connection, let us all carefully note that the authority which Congress has given for applying price controls to food expires next June, about eight months from now.

"Let me make it perfectly plain that I cannot say at this time that we can go forward for eight months without food controls. But industry and government, working together with the support of farmers and con-

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## **QMC Field Buyer**

A third field buyer has been employed by the Chicago Quartermaster Purchasing Office. He is Kenneth Benson of Milwaukee, Wis., who will make contact with canners in that area.

## DEFENSE

### Petroleum Administration

The Petroleum Administration for Defense has been created in the Department of Interior to carry out the functions under the Defense Production Act assigned by the President with regard to petroleum and gas. Secretary Oscar L. Chapman designated himself as Administrator.

### NPA Staff Appointments

Recent appointments to positions with the National Production Authority have been announced as follows:

Nathaniel Knowles, since 1948 director of the Division of Statistics and Reports in ECA, to be a Staff Assistant in the Division of Statistics and Reports.

Glen Ireland, vice president and general manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, Northern California and Nevada Area, to be an Assistant to the Administrator.

Joseph Sumner Bates of Media, Pa., president of the Bates Chemical Company, to be Director of the Chemical Division. He was connected with WPB's Chemical Division.

Charles E. Kohlhepp of Milwaukee, president of the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, to be a consultant to assist with organization of the Program Bureau. He was in the WPB, first in the Office of War Utilities and then as director of the Program Bureau and vice chairman of the Requirements Committee.

### Fish Production Authority

(Concluded from page 301)

ments for military, essential civilian, and foreign needs as may be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Claimant and requisitioning functions, if used, will be coordinated between the two departments. According to an announcement, the Secretary of Agriculture retains responsibility for tin container supply and materials and facilities used in common for processing fish and other foods, and for any fish procurement and distribution actions which might be necessary.

The delegation is designed to ensure full utilization of the technical knowledge and experience of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Interior Department in the production of necessary fishery products.

### Brannan on Food Controls

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sumers, can take steps which may avert the need for controls. Certainly we can ease the necessity and fight a delaying action against the inflationary forces which are likely to make food the pressure point in our economy. It is our job to see to it that we are strong enough at this point to absorb the pressure of increasing demand when more purchasing power moves into the food market.

"Today, the family market basket can be filled at prices lower than the lowest ceilings that could be put on. We can find the explanation in the Defense Production Act. Under its provisions, ceilings on food can be no lower than parity or the highest price for the 30 days preceding June 24, the date of the Korean outbreak.

"Most people would be startled to learn that, although the general level of farm prices is above parity, the farm prices of nearly all food commodities are below parity right now, including such major cost-of-living items as pork, milk, butterfat, eggs, and poultry among the livestock products, all the cereals, and the major fruits and vegetables, including potatoes.

"It is true that prices of beef cattle, lambs, and veal calves are above parity. But they also were above

parity in late May and early June. Here the test is whether present prices are higher or lower than they were then. The recent prices of steers and lambs are, in fact, very close to the pre-Korean prices. Usually the margin has been a dollar or less per hundred pounds, and in some markets and for some grades the advantage lay with the earlier prices.

"If going food prices were replaced by the lowest ceilings possible under the law, the cost of living would rise rather than fall. This is the situation today. It will continue to be the situation as long as our supplies are larger than our requirements.

"Let's complete our review of food prices by looking briefly into the future.

"The outlook for the next several months—well into the first quarter of next year—is plainly discernible.

"The best-informed judgment at our command forecasts an upward trend in over-all food prices. But the rise will be held to moderate size by the ample supplies of food on hand and by the equally real fact that meat prices are going down."

### Farm Housing Loans

Credit controls affecting loans for farm houses made by the Farmers Home Administration have been established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under authority of the Defense Production Act.

Where the credit needed for constructing or repairing a farm house exceeds \$2,500, a loan may not be made for the full amount, and the maximum repayment period will be shortened. All loan limits will be based on a percentage of the transaction price of the dwelling.

### Safe Foods to Eat

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ings of the convention to be carried in *The Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. It will thus come to the attention of dietitians in widely scattered positions in fields of education, health, industry, and government who are pledged professionally to advance the nutrition and health practices of the nation.

The Emergency Council of Food and Drug Officials of the Northeast States was told recently by another authority that canned foods are safe to eat after atomic explosions, provided the packages have not been broken. This statement was made by Dr. Simon Kinaman, senior scientist of the U. S. Public Health Service.

### Convention Schedule

(Tentative)

Program details for the N.C.A. 1951 Convention are being worked out. As they are finalized they will be announced and added to this tentative schedule of principal events. The schedule of N.C.A. meetings as given below is subject to addition and revision.

Feb. 15—Budget Committee.

Feb. 16—Research Committee, Raw Products Committee, Labeling Committee, Convention Committee, Home Economics Committee, Buildings Committee, and Administrative Council luncheon and meeting.

Feb. 17—Fishery Products Committee, Resolutions Committee, Board of Directors: Executive Session (a.m.), Lunch (m), Open Session (p.m.); and Research Smoker.

Feb. 18—General Session and State Secretaries Dinner.

Feb. 19—Raw Products Conferences, Laboratory Conferences, Fishery Products Conference, and Raw Products Smoker.

Feb. 20—Joint Laboratory and Raw Products Conference.

## PROCUREMENT

### QMC Citrus Requirements

Estimated requirements for canned citrus fruits and juices from the 1950-51 pack have been raised by the QMC. In pounds, requirements are:

Orange juice	34,114,000
Blended juice	23,234,000
Grapefruit juice	20,304,000
Grapefruit segments	14,027,000

### Invitations for Bids

★ Quartermaster Purchasing Office—1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago 9, Ill.; Oakland Army Base, Oakland 14, Calif.

Veterans Administration—Procurement Division, Veterans Administration, Wash. 25, D. C.  
Purchase Division, Federal Supply Service, General Services Administration, 7th and D Streets, S. W., Washington 25, D. C.

The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act will apply to all operations performed after the date of notice of award if the total value of a contract is \$10,000 or over.

The QMC has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

PEACHES—quantities in No. 10 and No. 2½ cans. Bids due in Oakland by Oct. 23 (QM-04-493-51-126, -127 and -128).

PLUMS—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Oakland by Nov. 2 (QM-04-493-51-129).

RSP CHERRIES—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Oakland by Nov. 2 (QM-04-493-51-128).

KADOTA FIGS—quantities in No. 10 or No. 2½ cans. Bids due in Oakland by Nov. 6 (QM-04-493-51-137).

PEACHES—quantities in No. 10 or No. 2½ cans. Bids due in Oakland by Nov. 6 (QM-04-493-51-137).

CHILI SAUCE—quantities in 12-oz. bottles. Bids due in Oakland by Nov. 8 (QM-04-493-51-142).

TOMATOES—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 23 (QM-11-009-51-831).

CORN—quantities in No. 2 or 303 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 23 (QM-11-009-51-835).

PUMPKIN—quantities in No. 2½ cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 23 (QM-11-009-51-917).

BACON—quantities in 24-oz. cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 23 (QM-11-009-51-944).

APRICOTS—quantities in 6-oz. cans (300 x 200). Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 23 (QM-11-009-51-953).

PEAS—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 24 (QM-11-009-51-830).

LIMA BEANS—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 24 (QM-11-009-51-836).

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE—quantities in 46-oz. cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 24 (QM-11-009-51-955).

CRANBERRY SAUCE—quantities in 1-lb. cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 25 (QM-11-009-51-823 and -825).

CARROTS—quantities in No. 10 or No. 2 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 25 (QM-11-009-51-041, -042 and -043).

TOMATO PUREE—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 27 (QM-11-009-51-834).

TOMATO JUICE—quantities in 46-oz. cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 27 (QM-11-009-51-835).

JAM—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 27 (QM-11-009-51-924).

APPLE SAUCE—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 30 (QM-11-009-51-832).

APPLES—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 30 (QM-11-009-51-833).

PUMPKIN—quantities in No. 2½ cans. Bids due in Chicago by Oct. 30 (QM-11-009-51-913 and -931).

PINAPPLES—quantities in No. 10 cans. Bids due in Oakland by Nov. 14 (QM-04-493-51-154 and -156).

The Veterans Administration has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

PEACHES—quantities of water-pack in No. 2 or No. 2½ cans and syrup pack in No. 10 or other cans. Bids due by Oct. 31 (S-107).

BLUEBERRIES—quantities of water-pack in No. 10 or No. 2 cans. Bids due by Oct. 31 (S-108).

PLUMS—quantities of water-pack in No. 2 or No. 2½ cans and syrup pack in No. 10 or other cans. Bids due by Nov. 1 (S-110).

APPLE BUTTER—quantities in No. 10 or other cans. Bids due by Nov. 1 (S-111).

FRUIT COCKTAIL—quantities in No. 10 or other cans. Bids due by Nov. 2 (S-112).

### Tomato Paste for USDA

Because of the lack of acceptable offers on its recent invitation for bids, the Production and Marketing Administration will not buy any tomato paste of the 1950 pack.

## PERSONNEL

### Dr. G. Ivor Jones on Staff of N.C.A. Northwest Branch

Dr. G. Ivor Jones has joined the staff of the Northwest Branch of the N.C.A., in Seattle, as a chemist.

Dr. Jones is a graduate of the University of Washington, where he received his bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees, in 1930, 1932, and 1934. He spent several years in the laboratories of the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D. C.; five years in the U. S. Department of Agriculture research laboratory at Albany, Calif.; and for the last five years has been employed as a biochemist in the Fisheries Technological Laboratory of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Comstock Appoints O'Neil

Comstock Canning Corporation, Newark, N. Y., has announced through H. J. Torrey, vice president in charge of sales, that Dave O'Neil has been appointed to act as divisional sales representative for the Middle West territory. Mr. O'Neil has been associated for over 25 years with the sales department of the Snider Packing Corporation and the Birds Eye-Snider Division of General Foods Corp.

### Texas Cannery Association

The Texas Cannery Association recently elected the following officers at the association's annual convention:

President—Van C. Snell, Harlingen Canning Co., Harlingen; vice president—W. J. Carter, Alamo Products Co., Alamo; treasurer—Clyde L. Young, L. Maxcy Texas Corp., Weslaco (reelected); and executive secretary—J. Overby Smith, Weslaco (reelected).

### New Association Members

The following firms have been admitted into membership in the N.C.A. since September 9, 1950:

MOLLY PITCHER CANNING CO., P. O. Box 411, Mount Holly Springs, Pa. Product—Tomatoes. Officer—Carey S. Fowler, secretary-treasurer.

PACIFIC QUEEN FISHERIES, 730 Securities Bldg., Seattle, Wash. Product—Salmon. Officers—John Brankovich, August Mardesich, Mike Barovic, John Bacoka.

STRAITS FISHING COMPANY, 308 Marion Bldg., Seattle, Wash. Factory—Bellingham. Product—Salmon. Officer—W. A. Ritter, president.

ANDERSON'S FOODS, INC., The Valley Inn, Buellton, Calif. Product—Pea soup. Officers—Robert T. Anderson, president; Rosemary M. Anderson, secretary-treasurer; Juliette T. Anderson, vice president; Charlene E. Karl, controller; E. Bradley Fairchild, plant superintendent.

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION SERVICE CORPORATION (Food Processing Division), 615 East Pioneer St., P. O. Box 350, Puyallup, Wash. Products—Blackberries, boysenberries, cherries, prunes, raspberries. Officers—James G. Patton, president; C. E. Huff, secretary-treasurer; A. F. Lamb, area manager.

## STATISTICS

### 1949 Grape Juice Pack

The total U. S. tonnage of grapes pressed for grape juice in 1949 has been compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. This is the first published compilation of the tonnage of grapes pressed for juice.

State	Tons Pressed
New York and Pennsylvania	35,571
California, Washington, and Oregon	15,431
Other states	2,000
U. S. total	53,002

By computing the grape juice pressed from these tonnage figures as 60 cases per ton (3 gallons per case) the 1949-50 potential grape juice pack to be bottled out of the 1949 crop would equal approximately 3,360,120 cases (12 quarts or 24 pints).



## TRAFFIC

### Defense Transportation

Three former officials of the Office of Defense Transportation have been appointed to the new Defense Transportation Administration. They are:

Homer C. King, deputy administrator; W. S. Rainville, executive assistant; and F. A. Silver, general counsel. They will work under James K. Knudson, DTA Administrator.

## RESEARCH

### Coordinating the Marketing Of Florida Citrus Fruit

A central association can make its greatest contribution to the Florida citrus industry as a bargaining agency for processed fruit and as a market information agency for fresh fruit, according to a report issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

George H. Goldsborough made the study. It is published as Miscellaneous Report 143 of the Farm Credit Administration under the title "Coordinating the Marketing of Florida Citrus Fruit."

The author drew his conclusions from data obtained from 80 Florida fresh citrus fruit shippers who market about 75 percent of the fruit for fresh consumption, and 34 citrus processors who handle 95 percent of the fruit processed. He also consulted eight non-operating Florida citrus industry leaders and 61 representatives of the fresh citrus fruit buying trade. The study was made under the Research and Marketing Act and covered material based on the 1948-49 season.

Of those expressing opinions on the need for establishing an industry marketing organization, 93 percent favored the development of such a central marketing program.

The study goes into considerable detail on the methods of selling used by Florida fresh fruit shippers and processors. It also gives some comparisons on the relative efficiency of the Florida and California fresh fruit marketing systems.

In general, the author recommends, the bargaining activities of a central association in the field of pricing should be confined to fruit for processing. The numerous points where prices are negotiated for fruit for

fresh consumption would make this type of activity impractical for fresh fruit, the author said. He suggested that a central organization should consider working out a common contract to be used by grower-members and processors for handling fruit for processing.

### Forthcoming Meetings

- October 23-25—Packaging Institute, 12th Annual Forum, Hotel Commodore, New York City
- November 6—Wisconsin Cannery Association and University of Wisconsin, Cannery Fieldmen's Short Course, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- November 10—Ozark Cannery Association, Fall Meeting, Ward Hotel, Fort Smith, Ark.
- November 13-14—Wisconsin Cannery Association, 46th Annual Convention, Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee
- November 13-15—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., Annual Meeting, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City
- November 15-17—Northwest Branch, National Cannery Association, Annual Meeting of Advisory Board, together with 37th Annual Convention, Association of Pacific Fisheries, Santa Barbara Biltmore Hotel, Santa Barbara, Calif.
- November 16-17—Indiana Cannery Association, Annual Convention, Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis
- November 17—Special Tomato Color Conference, N.C.A. Headquarters, Washington, D. C.
- November 20-21—Michigan Cannery Association, Fall Meeting, Fantiand Hotel, Grand Rapids
- November 20-21—Pennsylvania Cannery Association, 36th Annual Meeting, Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg
- November 20-21—Iowa-Nebraska Cannery Association, Annual Convention, Hotel Savary, Des Moines
- November 27—Illinois Cannery Association, Annual Fall Meeting, Bismarck Hotel, Chicago
- December 4—Maine Cannery Association, Annual Meeting, Falmouth Hotel, Portland

- December 5-6—Tri-State Packers Association, Annual Convention, Radson Hall, Atlantic City, N. J.
- December 7-8—Association of New York State Cannery, Inc., Annual Meeting, Hotel Statler, Buffalo
- December 7-8—Georgia Cannery Association, Annual Meeting, Hotel De Soto, Savannah
- December 12—Minnesota Cannery Association, 44th Annual Meeting, Hotel Radisson, Minneapolis
- December 12-13—Ohio Cannery Association, Annual Convention, Dasher-Wallick Hotel, Columbus
- February 1-3—Ozark Cannery Association, 43rd Annual Convention, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo.
- February 12-13—Canadian Food Processors Association, Annual Convention, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Montreal
- February 17-24—Annual Conventions of National Cannery Association, National Food Brokers Association, and Canning Machinery & Supplies Association, Chicago, Ill.

## FARM PRODUCTS

### Sweetpotato Purchase Program

"In order to encourage the domestic consumption of sweetpotatoes by diverting them from the normal channels of trade," the Production and Marketing Administration of USDA will purchase sweetpotatoes during the present fiscal year. Purchases will be made only in instances where surpluses exist, and subject to limitations imposed by the capacity of available outlets to utilize supplies without waste, and by the amount of funds available for such purchases.

The purchase program was announced in the *Federal Register* of October 17.

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